

In the Abstract:

Replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following new abstract:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for changing a data transfer rate on a communications connection, wherein information is processed using a processing method at a first point of the communications connection. The processed information is transferred to a second point of the communications connection where the information is restored using a restoration method that corresponds with the processing method. The processing method is selected from a given set of processing methods and the restoration method is selected from a given set of restorations methods. The processing method is selected so that the processed information is produced at a rate that is less than or equal to the lowest of the data transfer rates before and after the change in the data transfer rate.--